

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that at his request, U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce has written to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) stating that agency should not review New York Regional Interconnection's (NYRI) power line proposal. In February, Arcuri wrote to Chairman Waxman seeking his assistance in defeating NYRI.

"I want to thank Chairman Waxman for continuing his help in the fight against NYRI and in bringing national opposition to a proposal the entire Upstate community seeks to end," **Arcuri said**

"Even though NYRI has taken a step back at the state level, Chairman Waxman's intervention ensures that the proposal will face just as stiff opposition at the federal level. I am confident that Chairman Waxman will be a strong ally in our community's fight against NYRI's attempts to avoid New York State's role in the process. Until NYRI has no more tricks up its sleeve, I will continue to work with our loyal community groups every step of the way to stop NYRI once and for all."

"Now that Rep. Arcuri has brought this matter to my attention I intend to monitor it very closely," said **Chairman Waxman**.

In his letter to FERC, Chairman Waxman wrote, "Representative Michael Arcuri has brought NYRI's proposal to my attention. He is concerned about the impact this proposal would have since it would harm the environment and negatively impact the local economy and appears to meet no compelling national or regional need. He has made a convincing case against the proposal. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established a limited 'backstop authority' at FERC for siting electricity transmission lines in cases where a state refused to act. In this case, NYRI has opted to withdraw its application prior to a state decision. Accordingly, it would raise serious concerns if FERC were to entertain consideration of the NYRI proposal at this late juncture."

Chairman Waxman's committee has oversight of the federal agency that oversees power line projects. On Monday, NYRI notified the PSC that it was "suspending" its application. NYRI had earlier informed the judge in the case that it intended to "withdraw" its application. Concerns have been raised that NYRI may still attempt to circumvent New York State regulators and seek approval for the project directly from FERC.

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